

System, Method, and Business Method for Settling Micropayment Transactions to a Pre-Paid
Instrument

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides a method, business method, and system for conducting
5 micropayment transactions between consumers and merchants. A merchant offers micropayment
transactions to a consumer. The micropayment transaction is authorized, and the micropayment
transaction is executed between the merchant and the consumer. A value parameter associated
with a prepaid instrument, such as a prepaid calling card, is decremented by an amount
corresponding to the value provided by the merchant. A payment is transferred to the merchant
10 to settle the micropayment transaction. The invention also provides a system for conducting
micropayment transactions between consumers and merchants. At least one prepaid calling card
is issued to a consumer in exchange for a payment from the consumer. A merchant site conducts
micropayment transactions and accepts the prepaid calling card as payment. A clearinghouse
receives data associated with the prepaid calling card from the merchant site and processes the
15 data to settle the micropayment transaction. The invention also provides a business method for
conducting micropayment transactions between consumers and merchants.